

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 13-14, 18-20, 23-24, 26-28, 31, and 39 are in the application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 13-14, 20, 23-24, and 31 are amended. Claims 2-3, 6, 9-12, 15-17, 21-22, 25, 29-30 and 32 are cancelled. New Claim 39 has been added.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 3-5, 10-12, 16, 18, 22-24, 26, and 30-32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As a result Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the substance of Claim 4 therein. Also, Claim 14 has been amended by incorporating the substance of Claim 16 therein. Further, Claim 20 has been amended by incorporating the substance of Claim 22 therein. Finally, new Claim 39 has been added. Claim 39 incorporates the substance of Claims 20 and 30. In addition to the substantive claim amendments recited above, the dependency of various claims has been modified to account for the amendments and cancellations. Furthermore, in response to the Examiner's suggestion, minor wording changes have been made in Claims 1, 7, 8, 13 and 20.

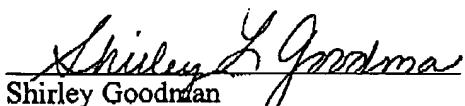
Applicants respectfully submit that with the proffered amendments, each of the claims remaining in this case, i.e. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 13-14, 18-20, 23-24, 26-28, 31 and 39 are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Dykema Gossett PLLC

By: 
Jerome R. Drouillard
Registration No. 28,008
2783 South State Street, # 400
Ann Arbor, MI. 48104
(734) 214-7670

Dated : January 24, 2005CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Amendment is being faxed via (703) 872-9306 to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 24th day of January, 2005.


Shirley Goodman
Shirley Goodman

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